REPORT

OF THE

REGISTRAR OF FRIENDLY SOCIETIES IN IRELAND,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 1867.

(*PRESENTED PURSUANT TO ACT* 18 & 19 *VICT. c.* 63, *s.* 45.)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
29 *July* 1868.

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REPORT of the REGISTRAR of FRIENDLY SOCIETIES in *Ireland*, for the Year ending 31st December 1867, pursuant to 18 & 19 Vict. c. 63, s. 45.

DURING the past year the Registrar has certified the rules of 17 sickness and burial societies, and 30 amendments to rules of similar societies; also the rules of seven burial societies and five amendments of their rules, and the rules of two co-operative societies.

No new building societies have been established; two amendments to rules of those societies have been certified. The Registrar has refused to certify any new loan fund societies, but has certified the amendments of three loan societies already established. He has received and registered 77 notices of trustees and 40 notices of change in the place of meeting. One society has been dissolved, and the dissolution duly advertised in the "Dublin Gazette"; and two societies have sent him notice of their illegal dissolution. One society has deposited its rules under the 44th section of 18 & 19 Vict. c 63.

A Return was ordered by the House of Lords on 17th August 1867, from the trustees or secretaries of every friendly society legally established (of which the Registrar only became aware on reading the Report of the English Registrar of Friendly Societies), and in his form of Return for the past year he called attention to its requirements (*see* Appendix, No. 1).

The Registrar has again to call attention to the effect of the repeal (by 18 & 19 Vict. c. 67) of the Friendly Societies Acts which were made applicable to building societies, and the consequent confusion in working those societies under the Acts 10 Geo. 4, c. 56, and 4 & 5 Will. 4, c. 40, which, for all other purposes, have been long since repealed.

Several complaints have been made to the Registrar, that societies certified in England or Scotland, but not in Ireland, have established Irish branches, and thereby led members of those branches to conclude that they had the protection in Ireland of the Friendly Societies Acts, and it seems to the Registrar that those branches are not entitled to the benefit of the Friendly Societies Acts until their rules have been certified in Ireland, and he has therefore declined to certify branches of those societies except as distinct and independent societies.

The Registrar has received several complaints of misapplication of funds, but owing to defects in the law, pointed out by him in his former Reports, he has not been able to take any steps for punishing the guilty parties.

A Bill having been introduced into the House of Lords, by the Earl of Lichfield, for the Amendment of the Friendly Societies Acts, the Registrar made some suggestions, with a view to have the Friendly Societies Acts made conformable to Irish statutes in certain respects, and it is a matter of much regret that legislation upon the subject has been again postponed.

The Registrar has had several cases of illegal alterations of rules brought under his notice, and has required the printed rules in all such cases to be cancelled.

The Registrar has frequently had to advise persons whose claims upon benefit societies have been altogether repudiated, or perhaps referred to arbitration, the effect of which latter course has been to oblige the claimant to wait for 40 days (under 41st section of 18 & 19 Vict. c. 63) before he could ascertain whether or not the arbitrators would sit to hear the dispute, so as to enable

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enable him to proceed at the quarter sessions court, the whole delay sometimes involving the loss of nearly five months before the final settlement of the claim; and he has endeavoured to induce societies to adopt a rule giving members the option of proceeding to have their disputes settled by justices in lieu of arbitrators, and he considers that in all cases, whether the rules of a society provide that disputes shall be settled by arbitration, or not, that the claimants on the society shall be entitled to have their claims heard and decided by magistrates, if they so desire.

The Registrar has in Appendix No. 2 set out the names of all societies upon his books, specifying those from whom returns have been received, and the income and expenditure of each.

Edwd. L. Griffin,
Registrar of Friendly Societies in Ireland.

Friendly Societies Office,
9, Upper Ormond Quay, Dublin,
27 July 1868.

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Appendix No. 1.

RETURN to be made to *Edward L. Griffin*, Esq., the Registrar of Friendly Societies in *Ireland, Dublin*, for the Year 1867 (pursuant to 18 & 19 Vict. c. 63).

Of the * _____ Society, which meets at No. _____ Street, in the City of _____. Date of original Registry _____

Reg. No. _____ day of _____ 18__. These Accounts audited by _____ and _____, from 1st January to 31st December 1867.

* Insert Name of Society, &c.

Dr. RECEIPTS. *Cr.*

1867 1 January to 31 December		£	s.	d.
	To Balance in Treasurer's hands on 1st JANUARY 1867			
	Donations and Subscriptions of Honorary Members			
	Fines			
	Entrance Fees			
	Contributions paid by Members for Sickness Relief			
	Contributions paid by Members for Relief on account of Old Age			
	Contributions paid by Members for Payment of Burial Death			
	Contributions paid by Members for Expenses of Management			
	Interest received during the year on the Funds invested			
	Town Societies will state their *whole capital* and number of shares, also their receipts and payments, and amount divided, and send copy of their balance sheet.			
	Building Societies will also state their *capital*, receipts, and payments, and send copy of their last annual report; and all societies will send answers to queries 1, 2, 3, and 4.			
	Co-operative Societies can obtain a separate form at the Registrar's office			
	£			

PAYMENTS.

1867 1 January to 31 December		£	s.	d.
	By Stationery and Printing			
	Surgeon's Salary			
	Secretary's Salary			
	Other necessary Expenses of Management			
	Sick Allowance paid to * _____ Members of this Society			
	Sums paid at the Death of * _____ Members of the Society			
	Sums paid at the Death of * _____ Members' Wives			
	Sums paid at the Death of * _____ Members' Children			
	Sums paid to * _____ Members of the Society on account of Old Age			
	Investments made during the year			
	Balance in Treasurer's hands on 31st December 1867			
	NOTE.—*Any expenditure of the funds of a Friendly Society for a feast, drink, banners music or processions, is illegal*			
	£			

* Insert number of persons.

A STATEMENT of the several Funds of the Society, and where Invested, or how Disposed of

1867 1 January to 31 December	*Dr.*	£	s.	d.
	To Amount of Money to pay Sick Members			
	To Amount of Money to pay Sums at Death			
	To Amount of the Management Fund			
	(If the Society has *only one Fund* state the amount in one sum.)			
	£			

1867 1 January to 31 December	*Cr.*	£	s.	d.
	By Money in Savings Bank			
	By Money in the Bank at			
	By Money in Post Office Savings Bank			
	By Money in the Treasurer's hands			
	* State other investments			
	£			

An Account of the Number of Members, and the Casualties which have occurred among them

Number of Members on 31st December 1866	Number of Members Sick since 31st December 1866
Persons admitted since same date	Total Days' Sickness experienced by the Members since same date
Number of Members excluded since same date	Number of Members pensioned on account of permanent Sickness or Disability
Number of Members withdrawn same date	Number of Members pensioned on account of advanced Age only
Number of Members on 31st December 1867:	Number of Members of this Society who have Died since same date
Ordinary Members	
Honorary Members	

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Names of Officers giving Bond	Date of Bond	Amount of Bond	In whose Hands the Bond is placed	

The Secretary will please take care to fill all these blanks carefully and accurately from the Books of the Society, and also to answer the following questions in writing.

This Return must be signed by two Trustees, and by the Secretary, and must be transmitted to the Registrar before the 31st March 1868, together with a printed Rule Book of the Rules under which the Society is governed at present: and the person transmitting this Return will take care to obtain a printed receipt for same at the Registrar's office.

1. What was the date of your last Registry, and have your rules been altered since? (If altered, send copy of alterations.)

2. Do you divide your funds at Christmas, and how much do you leave in chest?

3. Have you a Treasurer, and has he given security? If not, he must do so.

4. What are the names of your Trustees? and has notice of their appointment, signed by themselves and by the Secretary, been sent to the Registrar? If not, it must be sent before they can legally act as Trustees.

5. Have you, during the past year, been obliged to suspend the giving of sick or mortality money, and for how long, and why? and have you any remarks to make upon the condition of your Society during the past year?

6. Has your Society a copy of the Friendly Societies Acts? (18 & 19 Vict. c. 63; 21 & 22 Vict. c. 101; and 23 & 24 Vict. c. 58.)

_____, Secretary.

_____, _____, } Trustees.

By the Act 18 & 19 Vict. c. 63, s. 45, the Trustees of Friendly Societies established under any Act relating thereto, or the officer thereof appointed to prepare Returns, is required once in every year to transmit to the Registrar a General Statement of the funds and effects of such Society during the past 12 months, and a Copy of the last Annual Report of such Society.

By 23 & 24 Vict. c. 58, s. 7, If default shall be made in transmitting to the Registrar before the *First day of June* in each year, the General Statement, or a Copy of the last Annual Report of any Society, in compliance with the provisions of section 45 of the Act mentioned above, the officer making such default is liable to a *Penalty not exceeding Twenty shillings*, to be recovered with costs at the suit of the Registrar, before two or more Justices.

Proceedings have been taken in England against the Secretaries of several Societies, and Penalties and Costs have been recovered. It is the intention of the Registrar to adopt the same course in Ireland.

The House of Lords has ordered a Return (17th August 1867) from the Trustees or Secretary of every Friendly Society legally established in England, Scotland, and Ireland, having Paid Collectors or Agents, of the Names, Residences, Title, Business, or Occupation of the Patrons, Presidents, Trustees, Committee, Directors, Collectors, and Agents of every such Society on the 1st January 1867, with the Name of the Place at which by the Rules such Society is established, and the Places at which the several Collectors and Agents reside, together with the Salaries, Allowances, and Emoluments of each Paid Officer, Collector, and Agent for the year ending 31st December 1866, with the Number of Members of each such Society, and the Amount of the Funds on the 1st January 1867, and also the Amount of Contributions received, and the Expenses of Management, under distinct heads, in the year ending 31st December 1867. This Return should at once be sent to the "Clerk of the Parliaments, House of Lords, London, S.W."

The Registrar has again to call the attention of members of Friendly Societies to the evils arising from the unequal division of the funds of those Societies. Every member whose age exceeds 45 years is directly interested in having as large a sum as possible accumulated in bank to the credit of the Society, for upon these accumulations alone can be depend for relief and benefit after he has attained this age, and has thereby ceased to be eligible for admission into a new society. The Registrar wishes to apprise the members of Benefit Societies that by the Act 27 & 28 Vict. c. 43 (passed on 14th July 1864), the National Debt Commissioners can now insure life annuities and the payment of sums of not less than 20*l.* or more than 100*l.* at death. Some of the Post Office Savings Banks in Ireland now receive weekly or monthly payments of small sums from persons desiring so to insure their lives. The Working Classes can, under the system, obtain a larger benefit at death, and a larger superannuation, for much smaller payments, than they can insure in most Burial Societies, and besides have Government security for their investments.

This Return can be transmitted through the Post Office to the Registrar, if left open at the ends (not in an envelope), for one penny stamp.

Dublin, 1 January 1868.

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IN IRELAND,

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